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The Belize Times

Established 1957

24 AUGUST 2025 | ISSUE NO: 5469

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CALAKMUL DECLARATION

BELIZE – MEXICO – GUATEMALA ON COMMON GROUND

"Signing to Create the Great Mayan Forest Bio-cultural Corridor, the largest of its kind in the world"

In a historic agreement with multidimensional overtones, Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize signed onto a Declaration which creates the Great Mayan Forest Bio-cultural Corridor, the largest of its kind in the world. This is an archeological area is approximately 5.7 million hectares in the South of Mexico and NorthEast Guatemala and Northwest Belize. According to the Mexican government, Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities are central to the conservation of this bio-cultural region. The common goal is to strengthen environmental cooperation in conservation and ecological integrity to benefit approximately 7,000 species: 200 at risk, 50 priority species, and 250 endemic to Mexico and the area.

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Cabinet Brief | Public Service | Successful SUPERSALE
Blue Bonds Milestone 4 | BELTRAIDE Preps for Investment Summit

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Happy 50th to Carnival

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Plan Belize 2.0

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SUPPORTING EDUCATION
VIA SCHOOL SUPPLIES & BAGS

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Bags of Hope, Not Brands

10 Days to the 2025 Belize Investment Summit in San Pedro

Belize – Mexico – Guatemala on Common Ground

Flora and fauna do not recognize borders so the corridor is an agreement for us to together help them survive.

President of Mexico, Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo: "We should be proud to be able to tell the world: we have joined forces to preserve and restore the legacy of this extraordinary biological and cultural wealth. Today's agreement is historic and beautiful. Gracias Presidente Arévalo, gracias primer ministro Briceño. ¡Que viva Belice! ¡Que viva Guatemala! ¡Y que viva México!" (some translated)

The Gran Selva Maya is the second largest protected rainforest area in the Americas.
This initiative benefits up 2 million people in our three countries and incorporates 11 nationally protected areas in Belize.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government of BELIZE

Related to Agriculture, President Sheinbaum announced moving to the second phase in the Sembrando Vida program. This she saw as concrete form of cooperation that promotes rural development, protects ecosystems, and improves the living conditions of the area's inhabitants by regenerating soils, recovering forest cover where it has been degraded, promoting food self-sufficiency, and, above all, improving community well-being. Famers of Belize will welcome this 2nd phase.

Guatemalan President Bernardo Arévalo: "The three countries possess this immense jungle, an immense heritage, and consequently we have an immense responsibility, in which today Guatemala, Mexico, and Belize, our three governments, are taking a step forward. Because by protecting the Great Mayan Forest, we are protecting life and diversity, and honoring history to protect the future," (translated for this article)

Prime Minister John Briceño: "We are not only protecting an ecosystem, but also honoring the legacy of the civilization that once flourished in these territories. Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize demonstrate once again that our political borders do not divide, but rather unite efforts to preserve one of the last lungs of the planet and the living heritage of the Mayan people," he emphasized.

PM Briceño emphasized that the declaration is a bridge to the future and a permanent seed of cooperation between the three nations. He invited the world to join the vision of universal environmental protection and cultural respect.

The large trinational reserve will guarantee the ecological continuity of the characteristic ecosystems of the Yucatán Peninsula which Belize is a part of geographically, such as the lowland, mid- and highland tropical rainforests, the peten forests, and the mangroves. This is key to the protection of emblematic species such as the jaguar, the tapir, the spider monkey, and the quetzal, this latter not found in Belize. The preservation is strategic for addressing the current climate crisis, for regulating the water cycle, and conserving regional biodiversity.

The "Great Maya Forest Biocultural Corridor" is made up of 11 Protected Areas in Belize, 27 in Guatemala, and 12 in Mexico. These include:

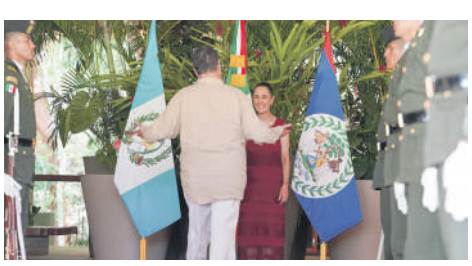
TRILATERAL MEETING
August 2025
PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER ENGAGES WITH KEY PARTNERS AHEAD OF TRILATERAL MEETING

the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve and the Balam Kú Flora and Fauna Protection Area in Mexico; the Mirador-Río Azul National Park and Dos Lagunas Biotope in Guatemala; and the Río Bravo Conservation and Management Area and Aguas Turbias Natural Protected Area in Belize.

Also, there is recognition of the living cultures of the area, the indigenous Mayan and Afro-descendant communities, as guardians of nature, without which ecosystems could not be preserved and threats such as illegal logging, environmental pollution, and fires cannot be curbed. There is thus need for social participation of the inhabitants of the areas as well as the academic and private sectors. The cooperation includes: sharing information, technology, and training in integrated fire management, illegal logging, and deforestation; and managing the use of timber and non-timber resources from the forests in an inclusive manner for the benefit of the communities.

Great Mayan Forest Day

With the intention of recognizing and thanking those who have and continue to contribute to the sustainable use and protection of its species and ecosystems, starting in 2026, August 15 will be commemorated as "Great Mayan Forest Day" and recognition will be established for "Merit for the Conservation of the Great Mayan Forest." This has not been formally announced for Belize but to remember this agreement is key towards its success. The Government of Mexico reaffirms its commitment to establishing international coordination and cooperation mechanisms that allow for the conservation of Protected Natural Areas for the benefit of the rural community and the country as a whole.



Tren Maya

This meeting definitely lays the environmental protections for the proposed extension of Tren Maya into Belize en route to Guatemala. A report in the Mexican press in late July stated that Belize is moving ahead with Mexico talks to begin studies to expand the Tren Maya. Mexico's neighbor has expressed interest in having the tracks expanded into Belize even before the start of the Tren Maya project during the AMLO presidency. Neri Ramírez, the Executive Director of the Corozal Free Zone, was reported to have informed the Mexican press that although a date for the meeting has not yet been set, the arrival of a technical team from Tren Maya is expected to conduct preliminary studies on the project's feasibility. Mr. Ramirez had noted that the potential rail connection would represent a significant opportunity for both the tourism sector and bilateral trade. He emphasized that the Free Zone could benefit from freight rail transportation once this mode of transport is operational. The Port of Belize is also in the vision of the Government of Belize as a partner in this megaproject.

Prime Minister John Briceño, in the name of the Belizean people and now history, asked the President Andres Lopez Obrador to consider extending the train into Belize and there was a positive response.

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Cabinet Brief

Belmopan, August 21, 2025.

The Cabinet met on 19th August 2025.

Cabinet applauded the report from the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the successful High Level Trilateral Meeting between the Heads of State and Government of Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize in Calakmul, Campeche. At this meeting, Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico agreed to establish the Bioculturral corridor called the Selva Maya Reserve, a trinational park which is the second largest reserve (5.3 million hectares) in the Americas. In addition, the three countries renewed their commitment to peace, democracy, and development. They also committed to greater cooperation in the areas of regional security, the environment, and economic development. Mexico made a presentation on the status of the Tren Maya Project, and all three countries agreed to the engagement of technical teams to discuss the future potential of the expansion of Tren Maya into Belize and Guatemala.

- Cabinet was also briefed on the Bilateral Meeting held between Belize and Mexico where the following areas for cooperation were discussed: security, infrastructure, trade and market access, agriculture, culture, education, and energy.
- In an effort to manage the growing presence of the Africanized bee population in urban areas, Cabinet approved a proposal by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise for the control and relocation of unmanaged bees that pose risks to humans, agriculture, and livestock. This plan will outline sustainable and ethical bee control strategies to mitigate risks while preserving

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The Belize Times
24 AUG 2025 | ISSUE NO: 5469 | The Truth Shall Make You Free | 24 AUG 2025 | ISSUE NO: 5469

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Printed and Published By
TIMES NEWSPAPER LTD.
Tel: 280-8385
#3 Queen Street
P.O. BOX 506
Belize City, Belize
Email: belizetimesadvertisement@yahoo.com

EDITORIAL

The Monumental Trilateral: Local & Regional Impact of the Calakmul Declaration

Belize's signing on to the Calakmul Declaration for the Establishment of the Bio-cultural Corridor of the Great Maya Jungle (BCGMJ) is a massively multidimensional process involving political, economic, cultural, and international implications, to name a few. When Prime Minister Briceño stood as an equal with our neighbours, Mexico and Guatemala, the positive ramifications instantly became monumentally historic. Belize's unique expertise in Blue Bond negotiations and its commitment to protecting its marine and green spaces were crucial in the formation of this agreement. Mexico's First Female President and Guatemala's President Bernardo Arevalo joined in to sign the Declaration in Calakmul, Campeche, creating the second biggest nature reserve in Latin America, behind the Amazon rain forest, which is in South America.

While Belize is making local strides to place legal protection for our marine area as per the Blue Bond agreement, a pioneering financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and oceanic projects, it is also protecting the green spaces. The proposed BCGMJ is in Mexico's Calakmul Maya site, Guatemala's Tikal site, and Belize's La Milpa in the Rio Bravo Conservation & Management Area. This landmark agreement, whilst internationally political, is fascinating to the archaeological and cultural stakeholders and likewise to thev regional tourism and economic sectors.

The agreement marks a colossal step in regional conservation and cooperation, as voiced by all leaders, particularly President Sheinbaum, who discussed the Tren Maya, and PM Briceño, who shared Belize's expertise in Blue Bond negotiations. One of the main features of the agreement is the Protection of the Maya Forest that binds the three countries. This accord immediately becomes a guardrail in the expansion of the Tren Maya into Belize and then into Guatemala. Another crucial provision in the declarations is the enhancement and safeguarding of the region's rich biodiversity; the destruction of our flora and fauna would immediately derail any advancements made by the Tren Maya. The agreement is thus to actively promote sustainable development and improve the well-being of the region's inhabitants while protecting natural and cultural heritage in the three nations. Furthermore, the intention is to foster collaboration among all three on environmental conservation and other areas. This agreement is a milestone in strengthening regional cooperation, as it formalises a framework for protecting a vital jungle ecosystem, respecting culture and promoting sustainable development in the area.

Criticism for creating opportunities by delicately developing a plan to construct a modern railway through Belize into Guatemala has its place in our open society. It is a great sign that people are concerned that the nature reserve would stretch across jungled areas of southern Mexico and northern parts of the two Central American nations, encompassing more than 14 million acres (5.7 million hectares). President Sheinbaum, standing between President Arevalo and the Prime Minister Johnny Briceño, stated, "This is one of Earth's lungs, a living space for thousands of species with an invaluable cultural legacy that we should preserve with our eyes on the future."

The message is that the leaders are intimately aware that damage to the lungs of our earth is catastrophic. The blueprints to extend the Tren Maya through the Mayan historic terrain will need to be precise and will be costly. The three leaders also recognise that the movement of people, the increase in trade and the promotion of the culture of the area create vast economic opportunities that will generate wealth for their people. Being economically myopic does not improve the vision for a grander quality of life for millions. Congratulations to the three leaders who have allowed their vision to move the region forward. Kudos to Mexico and Guatemala for hugging four hundred thousand people as neighbours and as a veritable partner in the ecological, cultural and economic development of the region. Calakmul will prove to be the birthplace of a monumentally impactful declaration.

en Español

La Monumental Trilateral: Impacto Local y Regional de la Declaración de Calakmul

La firma por parte de Belice de la Declaración de Calakmul para el establecimiento del Corredor Biocultural de la Gran Selva Maya (BCGMJ) es un proceso enormemente multidimensional que implica repercusiones políticas, económicas, culturales e internacionales, para nombrar algunas. Cuando el primer ministro Briceño se situó en pie de igualdad con nuestros vecinos, México y Guatemala, las ramificaciones positivas se convirtieron instantáneamente en algo monumentalmente histórico. La experiencia única de Belice en las negociaciones de los bonos azules y su compromiso con la protección de sus espacios marinos y verdes fueron cruciales para la formación de este acuerdo. La primera mujer presidenta de México y el presidente de Guatemala, Bernardo Arévalo, se unieron para firmar la Declaración en Calakmul, Campeche, creando la segunda reserva natural más grande de América Latina, después de la selva amazónica que se encuentra en América del Sur.

Mientras Belice avanza a nivel local para establecer la protección legal de nuestra zona marina de acuerdo con el acuerdo Blue Bond, un instrumento financiero pionero diseñado para apoyar proyectos marinos y oceánicos sostenibles, también está protegiendo los espacios verdes. El BCGMJ propuesto se encuentra en el yacimiento maya de Calakmul, en México, y los yacimientos de Tikal, en Guatemala, y La Milpa, en Belice, en el Área de Conservación y Gestión del Río Bravo. Este acuerdo histórico, aunque de carácter político internacional, resulta fascinante para las partes interesadas en el ámbito arqueológico y cultural, así como para los sectores turístico y económico de la región.

El acuerdo supone un paso colosal en la conservación y la cooperación regional, tal y como han expresado todos los líderes, en particular la presidenta Sheinbaum, que habló del Tren Maya, y el primer ministro Briceño, que compartió la experiencia de Belice en las negociaciones del Blue Bond. Una de las principales características del acuerdo es la protección de la selva maya que une a los tres países. Este acuerdo se convierte inmediatamente en una barrera de protección para la expansión del Tren Maya hacia Belice y, posteriormente, hacia Guatemala. Otra disposición crucial de las declaraciones es la mejora y la salvaguarda de la rica biodiversidad de la región; la destrucción de nuestra flora y fauna descarrilaría inmediatamente cualquier avance logrado por el Tren Maya. Por lo tanto, el acuerdo tiene por objeto promover activamente el desarrollo sostenible y mejorar el bienestar de los habitantes de la región, al tiempo que se protege el patrimonio natural y cultural de las tres naciones. Además, la intención es la de fomentar la colaboración entre los tres en materia de conservación del medioambiente y otras áreas. Este acuerdo es un hito en el fortalecimiento de la cooperación regional, ya que formaliza un marco para proteger un ecosistema selvático vital, respetar la cultura y promover el desarrollo sostenible en la zona.

Las críticas por crear oportunidades mediante el delicado desarrollo de un plan para construir un ferrocarril moderno a través de Belice hasta Guatemala tienen su lugar en nuestra sociedad abierta. Es una gran señal de que la gente se preocupe porque la reserva natural se extienda por las zonas selváticas del sur de México y el norte de los dos países centroamericanos, abarcando más de 14 millones de acres (5,7 millones de hectáreas). La presidenta Sheinbaum, situada entre el presidente Arévalo y el primer ministro Johnny Briceño, declaró: «Éste es uno de los pulmones de la Tierra, un espacio vital para miles de especies con un legado cultural inestimable que debemos preservar con la mirada puesta en el futuro».

El mensaje es que los líderes son muy conscientes de que el daño a los pulmones de nuestra Tierra es catastrófico. Los planos para ampliar el Tren Maya a través del histórico terreno Maya deberán ser precisos y serán costosos. Los tres líderes también reconocen que el movimiento de personas, el aumento del comercio y la promoción de la cultura de la zona crean enormes oportunidades económicas que generarán riqueza para sus pueblos. Ser miope en materia económica no mejora la visión de una mejor calidad de vida para millones de personas. Felicitaciones a los tres líderes que han permitido que su visión impulse el avance de la región. Felicitaciones a México y Guatemala por acoger a cuatrocientas mil personas como vecinos y como verdaderos socios en el desarrollo ecológico, cultural y económico de la región. Calakmul demostrará ser el lugar de nacimiento de una declaración de impacto monumental.

Cabinet Brief

Belmopan, August 21, 2025.

pollinator populations, which are essential for food security and the health of our ecosystem.

- In fulfilment of its obligation as a partner of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Belize, in 2020, enacted the Radiation Safety and Security Act, which mandates that an office be created to address issues related to radiation safety and security. For this reason, Cabinet gave its approval for the establishment of an Office of Radiation Safety and Security within the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Solid Waste Management. This office will have regulatory oversight of all activities involving ionizing radiation. It will also develop and implement a comprehensive safeguard agreement with the IAEA to ensure all nuclear material within Belize is used strictly for peaceful purposes and will control the import and export of sources, manage source inventories, and oversee the disposal of disused sources.
- Presently, Belize has no regulations controlling the sale, packaging, marketing, or use of tobacco products. As such, Cabinet gave its endorsement of a Bill to be introduced at the National Assembly to reduce tobacco-related harm and align with international standards. The bill is comprehensive and will regulate not only traditional tobacco products but also novel tobacco products. It will introduce strong regulatory measures across tobacco product packaging and labelling, advertising and promotion, protection of youth and vulnerable populations, smoking restrictions in public spaces, and accountability of the tobacco industry.
- Committed to elevating sports as a national priority, Cabinet gave its approval to allocate $750,000 for the restoration of the roof and other works for the Mexican Sports Center. This landmark multipurpose sporting facility was gifted to Belize by the Government of Mexico as a symbol of the enduring friendship between the two nations. In November 2022, the Center was severely damaged during Hurricane Lisa. Restoring the facility, which includes the installation of a new roof and other necessary structural and functional restorations, will immediately reinstate a high-standard venue to the national inventory.
- Cabinet gave its endorsement of a grant of $2.5 million through the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI) to apply fungicides on 40,000 acres of sugarcane fields to limit disease development and prevent further losses in sugarcane production.

Finally, Cabinet reminds all Belizeans to prepare emergency kits and review family plans this hurricane season.

Operation Schoolbag Turns Positive

Bags of Hope, Not Brands

Belize City, August 20, 2025

As families prepare for the new school year, leaders across Belize are stepping up to ease the burden with school bag and supply distribution, GST-free weekends from GOB, and community sales (BCC Super Sale).

In Belmopan, Hon. Oscar Mira reported that nearly 1,000 bags and supplies were distributed through a more structured program. "We now work directly with schools to identify deserving children. It's about ensuring those most in need benefit."

Meanwhile, in Cayo North, Hon. Micho Chebat emphasized investing in the future. "Every child deserves a fair start, and we will continue working to ensure our young people have the support they need to succeed."

In the north, Hon. Thea Garcia-Ramirez visited schools across Corozal Bay, delivering bags and reminding students that, "Today it is a bag, tomorrow it is their future… and I will always stand with them."

Hon. Kareem Musa noted that while donations often come from businesses, the real value is in what these acts mean for families. "This is a troubling time, and many of our families depend on these types of donations."

The Orange Walk Town Council also helped 250 students thanks to proceeds from Fiestarama, while Hon. Henry Charles Usher is hosting a Fort George "Fresh Start" Kids Fest on August 23, offering free haircuts, food, and school supplies.

The above are just a few example of PUP Town Councils, Village Councils and representatives across Belize have been involved since early July in the distribution of school supplies and bags. These efforts prove one thing: community and leadership together make back-to-school brighter.

So, when there was a claim of a social media firestorm over "fake" schoolbags and then transformed into what may be the single largest coordinated donation of brand-name backpacks and school supplies ever in Belize, it was a welcomed jumping onto the bandwagon. The story of Operation Schoolbag is not one of scandal, but of community generosity, accountability, and hope for children heading back to class.

It all started when Superintendent Aaron "Gambis" Gamboa, a veteran police officer turned community advocate, was seen distributing donated school bags in Lake I/ Martin's. For Gamboa, it was another chapter in years of service: eight years of mentoring, mobilizing resources, and giving back to the neighborhoods where he works. His philosophy was simple: "It's not the bag that gives good education, it's what's in the bag."

But things took a turn when regional managers from A&R Enterprises, the authorized JanSport dealer, pointed out that some of the donated bags being distributed were not authentic JanSport. That comment, aired on News 7, sparked an online backlash. Within hours, social media erupted with criticism—not at Gamboa, but at News 7 and A&R, which suddenly found themselves accused of shaming kids and communities who gratefully accepted whatever assistance they could get. But what followed is perhaps more important: a community rally that turned outrage into action.

Enter businessman Said Perdomo, who quickly pledged to donate hundreds of authentic JanSport bags to support Gamboa's efforts. "When you are a child and you small, you don't know the difference between fake and real," Perdomo explained. "You will be happy, and worse if you are not in a financial position, you are one step closer to going to school. As a parent, you are happy."

His offer snowballed. Vin's Liquors and other private donors joined in. Then, Acquity BPO matched his $16,500 contribution. By late evening, A&R's owner, Aldo Urbina, stepped forward to match the pledge as well. What started as a $15,000 commitment ballooned into a nearly $60,000 pool of donations—enough for over a thousand bags, including 200 genuine JanSport's, 800 Everests, and a mountain of school supplies.

For Gamboa, the turnaround was deeply personal. "When I listened to the news, it kind of brought down my morale," he admitted. "But you know what—I prayed to God. It's for the kids, for the future." Now, instead of feeling demoralized, he finds himself with unprecedented support. "I call it a big victory. I will try to share it wide—help PG where I came from, Orange Walk, Ladyville, Sandhill, but mostly Belize City."

The episode underscores a critical point: community trust and generosity matter more than branding battles. As Gamboa put it, "They are happy with whatever bag they receive. At least they could say it's not the bag that gives good education—it's what's in the bag."

For A&R, the controversy has been sobering. Urbina sent Gamboa a personal apology and issued a company statement clarifying that their intention was not to discourage acts of generosity, but to protect brand integrity. Still, the incident shows the power of public opinion in the age of social media. "The people out there got the power," Gamboa reflected. "That Facebook thing is nothing joke."

As Belize stands on the brink of its 44th Independence Anniversary, the story of Operation Schoolbag is less about knockoffs and more about authentic generosity. From the businessman who made a "reckless" offer that inspired dozens of others, to the community police officer who never gave up on his kids, this moment has become a reminder of what Belizeans can achieve when they rally together.

In the end, the lesson is clear: good journalism does not just expose problems—it may spark solutions. Giving towards education for advertisement value if time tested and should continue but we cannot forget those many organizations, our PUP leaders that give to education year in, year out with little fanfare other than maybe an internet post. Giving without recognition is powerful and it does have its rewards. - EF

NMP
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Strengthening Parenting Support Nationwide

MHDFSGA - UNICEF – NCFC

'...process to lead to the creation of the first-ever National Parenting Policy'

August 15, 2025.

Belmopan, Belize. The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support, and Gender Affairs (MHDFSGA), in partnership with UNICEF and the National Commission for Families and Children (NCFC), has embarked on a transformative national initiative aimed at addressing one of the most fundamental challenges facing Belize, ensuring all parents and caregivers have access to coordinated and evidence-based support to raise healthy, thriving children. This initiative marks a significant investment in the future of Belize by strengthening the foundation of the family through improved parenting support systems.

At the heart of this effort is a comprehensive review and update of the 2017 Art of Parenting Guide to integrate the latest child development research, proven parenting techniques, and culturally relevant approaches tailored to the realities of modern Belizean families. The process will lead to the creation of Belize's first-ever National Parenting Policy, which will establish clear coordination mechanisms, quality standards, and sustainable frameworks for parenting support nationwide.

While different parenting programs are currently offered by government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community groups across all six districts, research has revealed a critical gap, which is the lack of coordination and harmonization in the concepts, skills, and approaches used. This national initiative seeks to bridge that gap, ensuring consistency, quality, and impact in the delivery of parenting support.

Today's consultation marks the first step in this process, bringing together key leaders and technical experts to begin shaping the way forward. Among the participants were: Hon. Thea Garcia Ramirez, Minister of Human Development, Family Support, and Gender Affairs; Dr. Olusola Oladeji, Health and Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Belize; Mrs. Sherlene Tablada, Consultant; and Mrs. Maria Elena Contreras, Chair, National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC).

This collaborative process will continue until September and will engage stakeholders from across different sectors and districts in the country to ensure the final outputs reflect the voices, needs, and aspirations of Belizean families. (release)

Carnival at 50:

Belize's Golden Celebration

August 14, 2025

The streets of Belize are alive with anticipation as the National Celebrations Commission (NCC), in collaboration with the Belize Carnival Association (BCA), launched the much-awaited Carnival@50 "Carnival Gold" Magazine and officially commissioned songs that will set the rhythm for this historic season. The launch, held at the Bliss Institute for the Performing Arts, marked a milestone moment in Belize's cultural calendar: fifty years of Carnival in Belize.

The golden anniversary celebration reflects not just half a century of music, masquerade, and pageantry, but also the evolution of Carnival into a defining pillar of Belize's September Celebrations.

A Living Archive of Carnival

The centerpiece of the launch, the Carnival Gold magazine, offers a deep dive into Carnival's history and development. It chronicles the rise of mas bands, the artistry of costume makers, and the spirit of revelers who transformed small community street parades into one of Belize's most unifying national traditions. The magazine includes profiles of longstanding bands like the Jump Street Posse, Collet Mas Band, and Mother Nature's Creations, as well as pioneers who carried the Carnival spirit through decades, including Eludora Perto, Marina Welcome, and Stanley Lizama.

It also pays tribute to the pioneering women of the 1980s—June Singh, Crystal Vernon, Maud Williams, Alice Williams, and Myrtle Flowers—who ignited a new era of choreography and costume design, later forming the C-Jamm Mas Band in 1994.

Printed by Norman's Printing Company and retailing for $20, the publication is available through Mas bands and the BCA's Facebook page.

Contined on Page 8

FOR SALE
BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE

The Development Finance Corporation of Bliss Parade, City of Belmopan, Cayo District hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as mortgagee under Deed of Mortgages or Charges between those hereinafter named and the said Corporation which mortgages or charges are recorded at the Land Titles Unit or the Lands Registry, respectively and that the said Development Finance Corporation will, at the expiration of two (2) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, sell the properties described in the Schedule hereto.

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DATED THIS 6th DAY OF AUGUST 2025

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Project: Trade and Investment Facilitation Program for Belize
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Deadline: **September 15, 2025**; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Project – Trade and Investment Facilitation Program for Belize (TIFP).

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to procure the services of an Individual Consultant as a **"Digital Supplier's Tool Development Consultant".**

The Ministry of Finance invites interested individual to access the full version of this request for application online at https://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit their application in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN: Trudy Joseph
Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-4106
Email: procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: **Digital Supplier's Tool Development Consultant (BL-L1040)** - Your name

BY ORDER OF CHARGEE
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SELL

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED a statutory body formed and registered under the Credit Union Act, Chapter 314 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, and whose registered office is situated at No. 1 Hyde's Lane, Belize City, Belize District hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as Chargee under and by virtue of a Charge registered at the Land Registry between ERROL S. WHITE of the one part and HRCU of the other part.

HRCU will at the expiration of three months from the date of the first publication of this notice sell the property described in the Schedule below.

ALL offers to purchase the said property must be made in writing to Holy Redeemer Credit Union Limited from whom full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained.

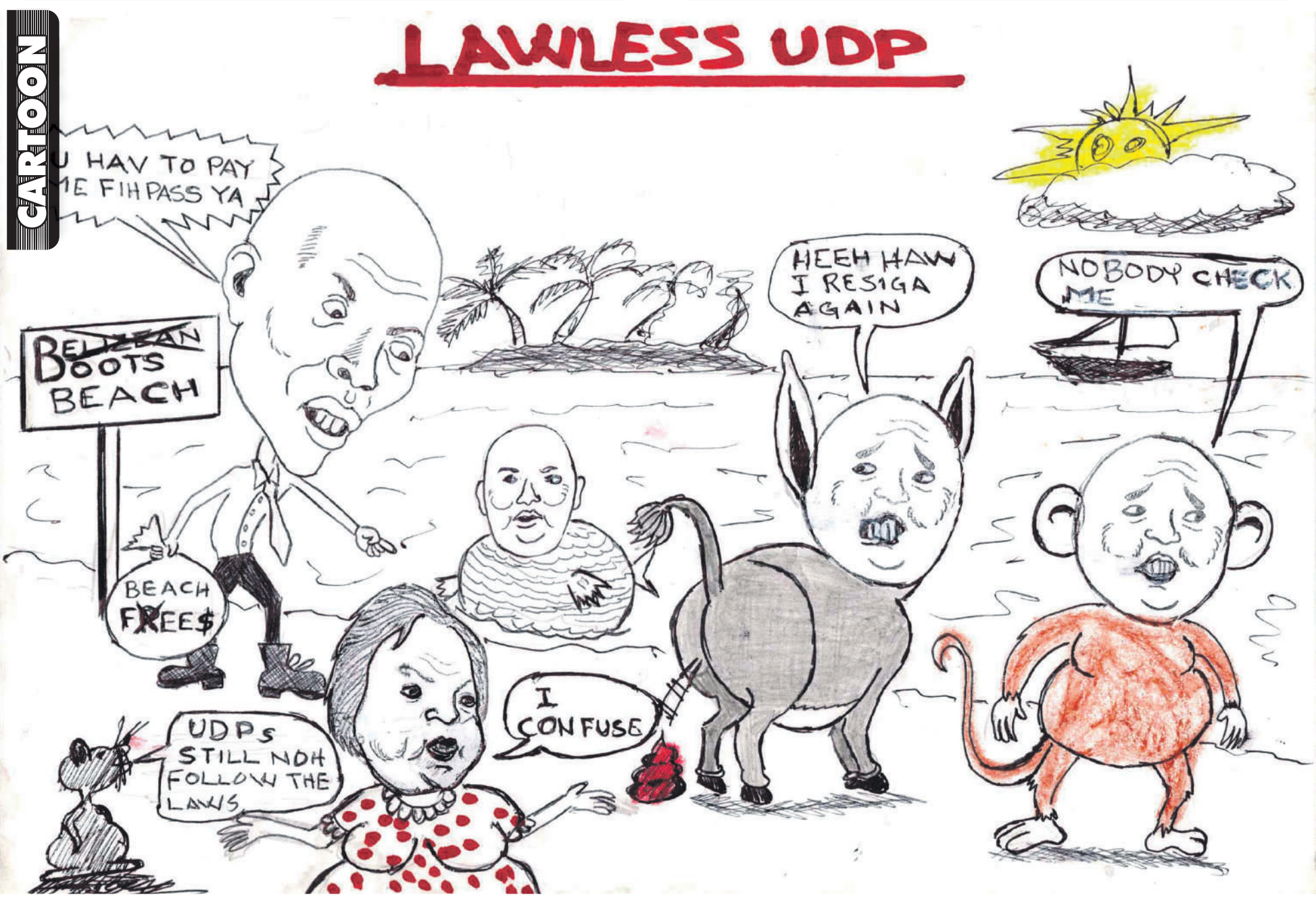
SCHEDULE

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land comprising 337.60 square yards being Parcel 8, Block 45 in the St. Martin De Porres Registration Section TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold property of ERROL S. WHITE

DATED this 18th day of August 2025

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED
1 HYDE'S LANE, BELIZE CITY, BELIZE
Phone: (501) 280-5644
Fax: (501) 223-0738
E-mail: foreclosures@hrcubelize.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/hrcuforeclosure/

CARTOON



BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: VEHICLES

Belize City, Belize District; Belmopan, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following vehicles. Sale currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these vehicles are sold.

2008 Ford Escape

2009 Nissan Rogue

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail:kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: Belize Auctions

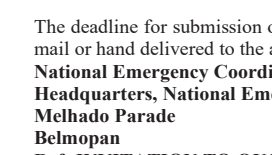
BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

Consejo, Corozal District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following vehicles. Sale currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these vehicles are sold.

1. Parcel No. 1123 Near Mile 1, Consejo Road, Corozal District:



Registration Section	Block	Parcel
Consejo	1	1123
The freehold property of Mr. Carlos Adolfo Orio		

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail:kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: Belize Auctions

MINISTRY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE, GOVERNANCE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

First Floor – North Wing
Sir Edney Cain Building, City of Belmopan, Belize
Telephone: 501-822-2204, 2205, 3765 Facsimile: 501-822-2206
Email: sec@mps.gov.bz Website: www.governmentofbelize.gov.bz

August 14, 2025

INVITATION TO QUOTE
N0. 001/25

The Ministry of the Public Service, Governance and Disaster Risk Management through the National Emergency Management Organization requests quotation for humanitarian supplies. The Ministry now extends an invitation to Suppliers to tender for the below listed items:

Lot 1

Food and Water	Quantity
Emergency Humanitarian Food Packages	8,000 Packages
Purified Water in Plastic bottles	14,000 gallons

Lot 2

Hygiene Goods	Quantity
Hygiene Kits	1, 000 Packages

Lot 3

Cleaning Supplies	Quantity
Plastic Buckets	1, 000
Household Brooms	1, 000
Floor Mops	1, 000
Powder Laundry Soap	9, 000

Lot 4.

Non- Food Items (NFIs)	Quantity
Foam Mattress – single	120
Foam Mattress – Double	300

Interested Bidders may submit a complete set of bidding documents to the following physical address. Bids must also include a copy of **Certificate of Good Standing from the Belize Companies Registry, the Belize Tax Service and the Belize Social Security Board**. Kindly see full procurement notice including Specifications at https://

The deadline for submission of sealed bids is Friday August 29th, 2025 at 12:00 noon, via direct mail or hand delivered to the address indicated below:

National Emergency Coordinator
Headquarters, National Emergency Management Organization
Melhado Parade
Belmopan
Ref: INVITATION TO QUOTE (No NEMO 001/25)

Note that late submissions will be rejected.

Signing of Declaration
Calakmul, Campeche in Mexico
Remarks
Prime Minister John Briceño
August 15, 2025

Excelencias…presidenta de México y presidente de Guatemala, Distinguidos Ministros, Representantes de México y Guatemala, socios ambientales, lideres comunitarios y amigos todos.

Hoy, con la firma de este Memorándum de Entendimiento Trilateral para el Corredor Biocultural de la Gran Selva Maya, no solo estamos protegiendo un ecosistema inestimable, sino también honrando el legado de la civilización que una vez floreció en estos territorios. México, Guatemala y Belice demuestran, una vez más, que nuestras fronteras políticas no dividen, sino que unen esfuerzos para preservar uno de los últimos pulmones del planeta y la herencia viva de los pueblos mayas. Este corredor no es solo un compromiso con la biodiversidad, sino un puente hacia un futuro donde el desarrollo sostenible, el turismo regenerativo y la sabiduría ancestral ordenen nuestro camino. Que este acuerdo sea semilla de cooperación permanente, donde la naturaleza y la cultura sean pilares de prosperidad para las generaciones venideras.

Invitamos al mundo a sumarse a esta visión, donde la protección ambiental y el respeto cultural sean universales.
¡Muchas gracias!

501Academy Code & Fly Camp 2025 In San Estevan, OWCentral

August 14

Lots of energy and curiosity filled the San Estevan Connect Centre as the Prime Minister joined us at the 501Academy Code & Fly Camp, watching students bring their ideas to life using blocky coding to guide their CoDrone EDU drones.

A wonderful glimpse of young minds learning, creating, and taking flight together. (post)

The 501 Academy Code and Fly Camp has literally travelled the nation this summer. Belize is posturing itself for the AI flood for the near and distant future. The children are where this should begin with. Conversely we have seen Agriculture Camps for kids and youth. We definitely need a fine combination of feeding ourselves while we are technologically savvy. A camp where were integrated the coding knowledge in the field should be coming…in the humble opinion of this writer.

The PM's presence shows that there is interest in technology at the very top…and we know that PM Briceño is environmentally-friendly and he is pro-Agriculture so it should work out fine for our near and thus distant future.

Music to Move a Nation

Complementing the magazine were the debut performances of two original songs commissioned for the anniversary. Belize's soca queen, Ernestine Carballo, unveiled her composition "Stronger," a song infused with the official celebrations theme "Stronger Together, Rising Forever." Performing with D's Dance Studio, Carballo's energy and lyrics channeled Carnival's e ssence of unity and joy.

Meanwhile, veteran soca artist Ivan "TR Shine" Burgess introduced "Carnival at 50", a song inspired by nostalgic vibes from his earlier hits. His performance encouraged revelers and masqueraders to "show them your colors" in honor of five decades of tradition.

Together, the songs embody the vibrancy, resilience, and celebratory spirit of Carnival, ensuring this year's festivities will echo across generations.

Leaders Reflect on a Golden Legacy

Mayor Bernard Wagner hailed the event as a reminder of Carnival's unifying force:

"Half a century of music, half a century of color and creativity. This year's magazine is more than just a keepsake—it is a living archive capturing the journey of Carnival from grassroots beginnings to the spectacular showcase we enjoy today."

Hon. Francis Fonseca, Minister of Culture, emphasized the broader significance of Carnival within Belize's national journey:

"Carnival began even before Belize became an independent nation. It has been an integral part of our country's social development over these past 50 years. The Carnival Gold magazine provides not only a historical record but also a reminder of how far we have come as a nation."

Hon. Fonseca also highlighted the importance of documenting Carnival's impact on Belizean creativity, identity, and cultural economy.

Honoring Legacy, Inspiring the Future

The launch also featured tributes to cultural icon Leroy Green, long associated with Carnival and the Children's Festival of Arts. His legacy as an educator and cultural advocate continues to inspire younger generations of performers and artists.

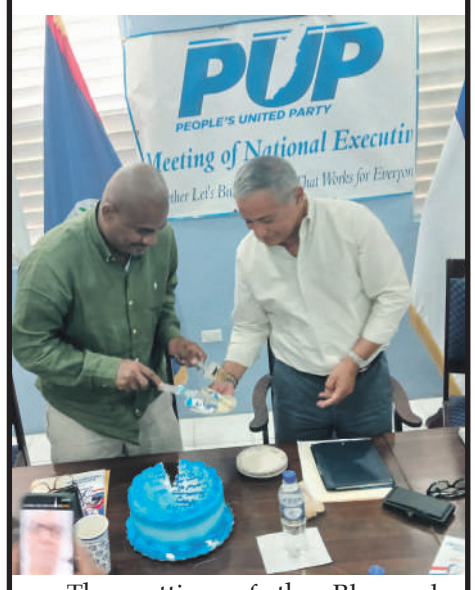
Municipalities across Belize were also issued their annual National Celebrations funding, reinforcing the nationwide nature of the September Celebrations.

Carnival as Cultural Capital

The launch of Carnival Gold underscores the enduring role of Carnival as both a cultural and economic driver. From the creativity of designers to the tourism appeal of vibrant parades, Carnival has shaped Belize's international image as a hub of celebration and resilience.

As Belize prepares to mark 44 years of independence this September, the golden anniversary of Carnival reminds the nation that culture is not just entertainment—it is identity, unity, and heritage. With the rhythm of Carballo and TR Shine, the archival richness of the magazine, and the passion of mas bands old and new, Carnival@50 promises to be a golden celebration etched in history.

Happy Birthday DPM Cordel Hyde



The cutting of the Blue cake crossed the 't' on another successful PUP National Executive Meeting. The Blue planBelize Party is heading, highly organized, to its 75th Anniversary celebration to be held in Orange Walk Town at the end of September. The PUP effectively governs the Jewel yet finds the time and energy to draw more strength from within the Party itself. All is done to even more effectively Serve the People.

CABEI Funding for Modern Police Station in Corozal

Confirmed During Min. Musa's Visit

Belize's Minister of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, Kareem Musa, continued his district-level outreach with visits to the Corozal Police Station and multiple substations in San Narciso, Pachakan, and Sarteneja, as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen law enforcement infrastructure and officer support across the country.

Minister Musa was accompanied by Chief Executive Officer Sharole Carr, Commissioner of Police Dr. Richard Rosado, and Deputy Commissioners of Police. The delegation met with frontline officers to assess facility conditions, hear concerns directly, and discuss strategies for effective community policing.

The highlight of the tour was the Corozal Police Station, where the officials visited the site of a new police facility to be constructed under the Belize Integral Security Programme. The project is being funded through a loan from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI).

"This station will be a major upgrade that reflects our commitment to modern policing and better service to the Corozal community," Musa said. "It is to ensure our officers are properly housed, resourced, and supported in their duties."

The Minister also reminded officers of the government's active land program, which provides access to plots for officers who do not yet own land. He encouraged eligible officers to apply, noting that stability and personal development are integral to strengthening the police force.

Throughout the visit, officers shared insights into local crime trends and social issues specific to their communities. Musa emphasized the importance of strong police and community relations and urged senior officers to continue building public trust through outreach and responsiveness.

The Corozal tour forms part of the ministry's broader national strategy to modernize police infrastructure, improve officer morale, and expand the reach of support programs to every corner of the country. (release)

It must be noted that these CABEI funds are being used effectively by the John Briceño administration. These monies were in the pipeline since the UDP years of corruption and incompetence. They were either too inept to access the funds or didn't see how to scam these transparent grants. Thankfully our security forces are benefitting wholesomely from CABEI.

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
SCHEDULED SYSTEM UPGRADE

HRCU will close at 12:00 Noon on Friday, August 29, 2025.

Service Downtime:

From **Friday August 29, 2025** at **12:00 Noon** until **Sunday morning** at **8:00 AM**, the following services will be temporarily unavailable:

- **Online Banking** *(including internal and Bank-to-Bank/Credit Union transfers)*
- **ATM/POS Transactions** *(Heritage Bank and other Credit Unions)*

Services Available:

- **HRCU ATMs** *(Main office and Mango Creek office)* will remain available, although they may be briefly interrupted during the upgrade window.

We expect **full-service restoration by Monday, September 1, 2025 at 7:00 AM**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US

(501) 280-4320

onlinebanking@hrcubelize.org

www.hrcubelize.org

Launch for Public Officers

New Capacity Building Program in Public Financial Management

August 18, 2025

The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of the Public Service, Governance, and Disaster Risk Management, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Economic Transformation, and Investment, and the University of Belize, has officially launched the first-ever Public Financial Management Certification Programme under the Strengthening Public Expenditure Management (SPEM) Project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank.

The initiative was inaugurated with an orientation session held at the Jaguar Auditorium, University of Belize Belmopan Campus, on Monday, August 18, 2025. The event marks the beginning of a transformative effort to build institutional capacity in public financial management (PFM).

Over 80 public sector officials representing ministries, departments, and agencies attended the orientation, underscoring Belize's strong commitment to improving transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the management of public resources.

Key orientation topics included: Introduction to Public Sector Financial Management | Roles and Responsibilities in PFM | Navigating the Learning Platform | Time Management and Goal Setting | Change Management (ADKAR Assessment)

Participants were also introduced to the program's digital learning platform, created in partnership with the University of Belize's Open and Distance Learning (ODL) unit, which will ensure flexible, accessible, and high-quality training.

The Programme, developed through a national skills gap analysis and with input from key stakeholders across the financial sector, is designed to equip public officers with practical tools, technical knowledge, and ethical frameworks to strengthen financial governance.

The certification programme, scheduled to commence on September 1, 2025, will focus on strengthening capacities in accounting, budgeting, procurement, treasury, and internal audit (control), while also promoting compliance with national and international financial standards.

This initiative highlights the Ministry's ongoing commitment to modernizing the public service, enhancing Belize's institutional resilience, and fostering a culture of good governance through strategic capacity development. (release)

Minister Henry Usher

Checking into Emergency Response Facilities

August 14 -

The Minister of Public Service, Governance, and Disaster Risk Management, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, travelled to Stann Creek and Toledo to check in on our emergency response facilities. The purpose of the visit was to ensure that we are prepared when disaster strikes, strengthening coordination, reviewing ongoing upgrades, and confirming that our teams have the tools and resources they need.

But more than the buildings and systems, the true highlight was meeting the brave women and men who serve on the frontlines. Their courage, dedication, and selfless service remind me that our greatest resource is, and will always be, our people.

I was also honoured to take part in the certificate ceremony for 48 newly certified members of the Community Emergency Response Teams from four villages in the Toledo District. These committed individuals are stepping up in a big way to make their communities safer and more resilient.

Together, we are building preparedness, resilience, and unity for a stronger Belize. (post)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI) (CONSULTING FIRM)

Consultancy Service for Individual Gap Analysis of Potential Suppliers

Institution:	Ministry of Finance
Country:	Belize, Central America
Project:	Trade and Investment Facilitation Program for Belize
Process ID:	BL-L1040 – P00016
Duration:	Six (6) Months
Deadline:	September 16, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Project - Trade and Investment Facilitation Program in Belize (TIFP).

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to procure the services of a Consulting Firm to undertake the **"Consultancy Service for Individual Gap Analysis of Potential Suppliers".**

The Ministry of Finance invites interested firms to access the full version of this REOI online at https://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN: Trudy Joseph
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Institution: MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT - GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.

Tender: **The Design, Testing and Commissioning of an Environmental Information System for the Department of the Environment**

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Department of the Environment under the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Solid Waste Management, invites suitable **firms** to submit proposals for the Design, Testing and Commissioning of an Environmental Information System for the Department of the Environment. This Consultancy is for a **consulting team** for a period of fifteen (15) months.

The overall objective of this consultancy is to design, develop, test, commission and maintain an Environmental Information System to meet the following specific objectives not limited to:

a. Update the 2016 situational and business process analysis to inform the system's design.
b. Utilize the updated situational and business process analysis to digitize the main functions of the DOE including the design of a secure, user-friendly web portal that enables registration and access for both public and private users.
c. Develop a communications module to facilitate automatic alerts and notifications via email and in-system messaging. Create a stakeholder contact database for communication and engagement.
d. Develop and integrate an automated invoicing module within the EIS to manage all billing related to project that have received environmental clearance.
e. Create and digitize all relevant forms.
f. Develop and deliver comprehensive training materials, including user manual for both public users and DOE administrators. Facilitate structured training sessions to ensure effective system adaptation and use by the DOE personnel and relevant stakeholders.
g. Provide a web-based administration console for system configuration and management.
h. Design and implement a centralized digital repository for secure document and data management.
i. Ensure full interoperability with existing DOE and other government.
j. Incorporate a robust Information Security Management System (ISMS) to ensure data confidentiality, integrity and availability. Key requirements include strong access controls with role-based permissions, secure data storage and transmission protocols and regular audit trails and security monitoring.

Scope of Services:

The firm shall be responsible for the full design, development, testing, commissioning, and post-implementation support of an Environmental Information System (EIS) that aligns with the Department of the Environment's operational needs and the Government of Belize's digital transformation agenda.

For the full Terms of Reference, which lists further scope of services, deliverables timeline, firm qualification and experience required, and Submission Procedures, kindly request via email at info@environment.gov.bz with a copy to procurement.asst@environment.gov.bz

Deadline for Submission: Friday, September 19th, 2025, no later than 10:00 a.m.

vamos bien

PlanBelize 2.0

right on track

HISTORIC CALAKMUL TRILATERAL

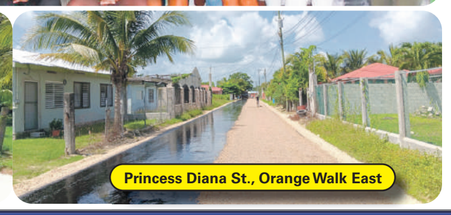
Prime Minister John Briceño & Team

Min. Kevin Bernard, Health & Wellness

Continuous Medical Education training on malaria and dengue

Years of Service, Honoring Public Officers

Sta Familia St., Orange Wak East



Princess Diana St., Orange Walk East

Min. Musa, CS, Home Affairs

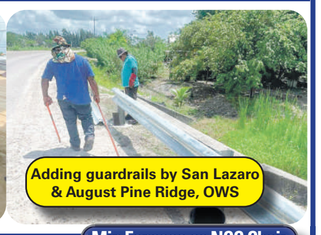
Visiting site of proposed Czl New Police Station

Hon. Cervantes, OW North

Closing of Basketball Camp

Min. Julius Espat, CS, MIDH

Roger's Stadium in time for National Championships



Adding guardrails by San Lazaro & August Pine Ridge, OWS

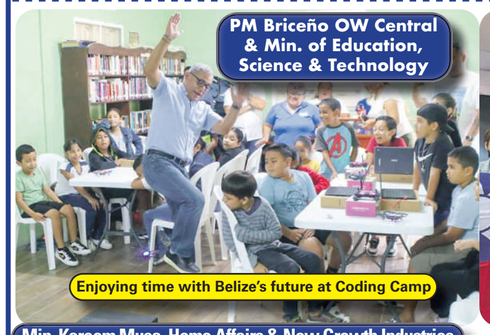
Min Fonseca as NCC Chair

Collaboration with Municipalities, donation towards Celebrations

Hon. Michel Chebat in his Cayo South

Supporting Hundreds of Children via Education

PM Briceño OW Central & Min. of Education, Science & Technology



Enjoying time with Belize's future at Coding Camp

Special Envoy HE Briceño

Accepting generous Taiwan Donation, Simply Help

OW Town Council in OWC

Supporting both Education & Belize's Future

Min. HC. Usher, FG, Public Service, Governance and Disaster Risk Management

Familiarization Visit to Dangriga & Toledo

Min. Kareem Musa, Home Affairs & New Growth Industries

Meet w/ Guatemalan Counterparts

Min. Jose Mai, OW South, MAFSE

Highly Successful Agric Camps Wrapup

Min. Thea Garcia Ramirez, CB, Human Dev

Speaking at Nationwide Parenting Workshop

right on track — 'Vamos Bien in 2025' — vamos bien

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

BELIZE INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2025

"Bridging Markets, Building Resilience"

By Hilly Bennett

As Belize prepares to open its doors to the Belize Investment Summit (BIS) 2025, there is great anticipation, from investors, financial institutions, both locally and internationally, technocrats, and government agencies, for another successful event in continuing the climate of investor confidence. A confidence was restored by the People's United Party (PUP) Government, the John Briceño administration during the post-COVID-19 era after the thirteen years of maladministration by the incompetent Barrow Government.

Belize is as ready as it was in 2021, when the first-of-its-kind initiative was conceived from the Office of the Prime Minister. "Belize is Open for Business" was the clarion call of the young administration armed with the stellar economic, social and architectural wizardry of PlanBelize. PM Briceño, on finding the economy in a state of collapse and other sectors of government in a state of utter decay, engaged quickly to jumpstart the economy and to get the country back "Pan Track." The novel idea of an investment summit was the tool utilized to attract investment both foreign direct and locally, and create an economic climate that would restore investors' confidence which was at an all-time low. PM Briceño at the 2021 summit said, "If we create initiatives that include access to financing, and a more seamless and enabling mechanism, we can rebuild our economy without compromising initiatives of the larger enterprises." Briceño also understood that Belize had the potential to become a bridge in the region because of its language as an English-speaking country with a strategic geographical location. Before the "Belize Open for Business" summit, there were potential investments of $500 million in areas of tourism, agriculture, energy, BPOs, and infrastructure development as well as other diverse fields. However, the keynote speaker, former Prime Minister of Canada, Stephen Harper whose presentation centred on Public Sector Private Sector Partnerships (PPPs) called on the government to involve the private sector to ensure that the investments are cost-effective.

The investment summit is held every two years and, Belize Investment Summit 2023 held under the theme *"Belize: Endless Opportunities" brought to the fore the Orange Economy also known as the creative economy, which includes all sectors of goods and services that come from the creation of intellectual property such as designs, visual arts, tourism and cultural heritage. At the second edition of the Belize Investment Summit, the keynote speaker was the former President of Colombia Ivan Duque Marquez a strong advocate for the Orange Economy who praised the Belizean government for its employment rate at the time, saying, "That is a big achievement". Adding "But also imagine if you continue generating new opportunities and you allow the human capital through talent to be employed where the talent is, and that has to do with music, the arts, with functional creation."* Marquez emphasized that *"What you are going to be able to do is what you are doing now with call centers where young persons are employed and they can win or earn by the hour maybe two or three times the minimum wage in an hourly basis, the same thing can happen in the Orange Economy but even higher."* In following the advice of President Ivan Duque Marquez, the government has been engaging in initiatives that capture the benefits of the Orange Economy and its contributions to the country's economic growth. In addressing the Belize Investment Summit 2023, the Prime Minister, John Briceño stated, *"There are so many great opportunities and potential in the Orange Economy. I think that the presentation that President Ivan Duque Marquez made was an eye-opener for everyone to see the great opportunities that exist in the Orange Economy."* Thus making the cultural economy a big engine for social transformation. Briceño understood that to harness the creativity of the individuals, especially the young people in the arts, music, and raw talent, the government has to put in place, institutions, opportunities, the legislation to encourage them to participate, while being able to attract investors to invest. Since then there has been support for the MSMEs with the amendment to the Fiscal Incentive Act allowing exemptions on inputs to small businesses, the introduction of a Collateral Registry allowing the MSMEs access to financing for movable assets amongst others. BELTRAIDE has been behind the scenes supporting small businesses through various initiatives, especially those from out of the Office of the Prime Minister.

Looking forward to the Belize Investment Summit 2025, BELTRAIDE personnel Nikki Augustine, Marketing Manager, Marketing& Communications, BELTRAIDE, and Organiser, Belize Investment Summit, Frantz Smith, Investment Policy Officer & Head of Operations, IPCU, Jairo Chavez, Investment Policy Officer, IPCU, led the charge, as guests on Vibes Media, on Wednesday to talk about this year's event. The Belize Investment Summit is the mechanism that is intended to attract and promote strategic investment primarily to drive towards sustainable economic development in Belize. This year's summit is being held under the theme **"Bridging Markets, Building Resilience"** with the sub-theme "Belize: The Nexus of CARICOM, Central America, and Southeastern Mexico in a New Global Trade Era." Participants are expected from Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia and the Middle East, intended to position Belize as a gateway to global markets. One of the features is the collaboration with Investment Policy and Compliance Unit and the Belize Investment Summit is the Connect and Opportunity Pavilion which will focus primarily on the networking and matchmaking opportunities. Jairo Chavez, Investment Policy Officer explained that this will focus "On connecting business to business opportunity, business to government, networking sessions, private matchmaking, and fostering tangible partnership opportunities, also potential PPPs." Additionally, Chavez said that *"We intend to facilitate interaction and dialogue with investors, government officials, government ministries, technocrats, we hope to promote access to finance."* Chavez indicated that the local financial institutions as well as the IFIs, such as the IDB, EU, and CABEI, understanding that access to financing is something lacking in Belize.

Interestingly, the Belize Investment Summit will feature two guest speakers with Prime Minister Briceño delivering the keynote address, noted by Nikki Augustine. One of the guest speakers is Dr. Ernesto Stein who will be focusing on reducing regional gaps and fostering economic development through International trade and integration. The other speaker will be Adam Stewart, Executive Chairman at Sandals Resort International. Stewart who is quoted as saying ***"Evolution is a reality. The world stands still for no one"*** will stir the touristic sector in a new direction, including advancing luxury niche markets that will benefit the country, including the farmers, the fishers and even the taxi drivers, understanding that 44 million people make up the Caribbean. Tourism is not solely about changing economies but also about changing lives.

Key highlights of the summit include:

* Sector-focused presentations on Agribusiness, Renewable Energy, Tourism, the Blue Economy and Digital Services

* An Investment Expo, showcasing high-potential sectors and investment-ready projects

* Business to Business and Business to government networking opportunities, enabling direct connections between investors, government officials and private sector leaders

Once again the doors to Belize will be flung open for business with endless opportunities. Belize Investment Summit 2025, ***"Bridging Markets, Building Resilience".***

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

WORLD BANK GROUP

CIVIL ENGINEER

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-MFEDI - CEU-481690-CS-INDV-2
Duration: Two (2) years
Duty Station: Ministry of Finance, Belmopan (In Office)
Deadline: **September 15, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of the Project**: "**Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project".

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage contractual services of a **"Civil Engineer".**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at MOF – Civil Engineer – Individual Consultant – BZ-MFEDI – CEU-481690-CS-INDV-2 – MOF-2-25 - Procurement Portal or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN: Nayomi Torres
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

WORLD BANK GROUP

FINANCIAL SPECIALIST

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-CEU-460482-CS-INDV-2
Duration: Two (2) years
Duty Station: Ministry of Finance, Belmopan (In Office)
Deadline: **September 15, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of the Project**: "**Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project".

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage contractual services of a **"Financial Specialist".**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at MOF – Financial Specialist – Individual Consultant – BZ-CEU-460482-CS-INDV-2 – MOF-2025 - Procurement Portal or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN: Nayomi Torres
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Commended - Years of Service in the Ministry of Health

Thirty Years

Twenty Years

Fifteen Years

Ten Years

"We celebrated their commitment, hard work, and invaluable contributions to our nation's health sector."

The Ministry of Health & Wellness and Min. Kevin Bernard hosted a special ceremony to recognize and honor our dedicated public officers for their years of service. The Awards were presented to individuals who have proudly served Belize for 10, 15, 20, and over 30 years.

The Ministry posted that "We celebrated their commitment, hard work, and invaluable contributions to our nation's health sector."

A heartfelt thanks from Belizeans go out by extension to all public officers for their service, dedication, and unwavering commitment.

Hon. GILROY USHER Assisting Over 800 Students in Port with Back To School Items

This 2025-26 School Year, the Hon. Gilroy Usher Area Representative for Port Loyola / Minister of State for Public Utilities, Energy, and Logistics continued the tradition of helping residents of Port Loyola in preparing their children for the start of the new school by assisting over 800 students from pre-school upwards with schoolbags, composition books, subject books or exercise books with accessories.

The annual Back to School Program in the division was held from Monday August 18 to Thursday August 21 this week.

Sincerest thanks to the PUP Port Loyola Committee, parents, and sponsors of the event. To them and all others who assisted in any way to make the annual Back to School Program of the Port constituency a very successful event, a grand Thank You.

MoHW Confirms Human Cases of New World Screwworm in Belize

August 18, 2025 - The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) informs the public that the first confirmed human case of New World Screwworm (NWS) since its re-emergence in Belize in December 2024 has been detected.

The patient, a 21-year-old male from Benque Viejo del Carmen Town in the Cayo District, sought medical attention at the San Ignacio Community Hospital on August 15, 2025. Through ongoing collaboration with the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA), samples were immediately submitted and confirmed. The patient is currently undergoing treatment and is responding well. (Update: a 2nd case is now being reported)

The Ministry takes this opportunity to remind residents that the key to preventing New World Screwworm in both animals and humans is proper wound care to avoid contact with the New World Screwworm fly. The highest number of cases in Belize has been reported in dogs; however, the New World Screwworm can affect all warm-blooded animals, including livestock, wildlife, and pets. Frequent inspection of animals under your care is important, and any wound should be promptly and properly treated to prevent transmission.

What is New World Screwworm?

The New World Screwworm (Coch-

Continued on page 18

New World Screwworm
is dangerous to humans and animals.
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS
Equal Health for All
Keep wounds clean and covered.
Seek medical help for unusual pain, swelling, or if you feel or see moving larvae (worms).

Belize Blue Bonds Program

GOB Achieves the Delivery of Milestone 4

August 20, 2025 - In November 2024, the Government of Belize, through its Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit, submitted the required documentation to the Belize Blue Investment Company Limited (BIC) to complete Milestone 4, one of the key conservation targets under the Conservation Funding Agreement (CFA) of the Belize Blue Bonds Program.

Milestone 4 required that, by the third year of the Agreement, 25% of Belize's ocean territory be designated as Biodiversity Protection Zones (BPZs). To meet this target, the Government proposed 1,669.64 km², or 5%, of new Medium Protection Zones, bringing the total protected ocean area to 8,360.1 km², or 25.05%.

Following BIC's review and assessment, Belize officially achieved Milestone 4, marking a major milestone in the country's journey toward ocean sustainability and long-term marine conservation.

These newly designated zones were identified through an inclusive, science-based marine spatial planning process led by the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI), with support from the Belize Fisheries Department and other agencies. Consultations were held nationwide to engage and inform stakeholders about the areas of protection.

The new zones were legally established under SI Nos. 132, 133, 134, and 135 of 2024, available on the Belize Fisheries Department's official legislation library: https://fisheries.gov.bz/download-category/legislation/

These Medium Protection Zones allow for limited, well-managed use, ensuring that marine ecosystems remain healthy while supporting the livelihoods of coastal communities. The protection of key habitats, such as reefs, mangroves, and seagrass

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ELIMINATE MOSQUITO BREEDING SITES
Areas or wastelands with accumulated water, grass or garbage are places where the mosquito that transmits dengue, chikungunya and Zika breeds.
PAHO
Pan American Health Organization
World Health Organization
PAHO 120th ANNIVERSARY

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

WORLD BANK GROUP

PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-CEU-460475-CS-INDV-2
Duration: Two (2) years
Duty Station: Ministry of Finance, Belmopan (In Office)
Deadline: **September 15, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of the Project**: "**Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project".

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage contractual services of a **"Procurement Specialist".**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at MOF – Procurement Specialist – Individual Consultant – BZ-CEU-460475-CS-INDV-2 – MOF-2025 - Procurement Portal or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN: Nayomi Torres
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106'
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES & VEHICLE

Libertad Village, Corozal District; San Estevan, Orange Walk District; San Ignacio, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo andChristiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties and vehicle. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties and vehicle are sold.

1. Parcel No. 666 Libertad Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Libertad Village	1	666
The Freehold property of Mr. Reginald Diego.		

2. Parcel No. 292 San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Estevan	1	292
The freehold property of Ms. Francisca Palomo.		

3. Vehicle:

2010 Black Chevy Equinox

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction

BCC Showcases more MSME Success

Belize City Council's 2025 Downtown Super Sale: Back to School Edition. – A Great Success!

Our Annual Back to School Edition Super Sale was the place to be this weekend! Families came out in full force to enjoy unbeatable deals, delicious food, refreshing drinks, and an unforgettable day of community spirit in Downtown Belize City.

Highlights that made this year extra special: Amazing discounts on school supplies & uniforms | Back to School Giveaways | A variety of food & drink vendors | Belize City Council's Youth Entrepreneurs | Free kids zone | Vibrant live performances by local artists

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GOB Achieves the Delivery of Milestone 4

Continued from page 15

beds, enhances fisheries productivity, strengthens coastal resilience, and preserves biodiversity, delivering long-term benefits to both nature and the people of Belize.

The Government, through the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit, remains committed to working with CZMAI and other partners to finalize Belize's Sustainable Ocean Plan and deliver the remaining conservation goals under the Blue Bonds Program, securing a thriving, sustainable blue economy for current and future generations.(release)

Ocean Space Protected		
New Areas of Protection established under Milestone 4)	**Area (km2)**	**%**
Lighthouse Reef General Use I	507.45	1.52
Lighthouse Reef General Use II	720.56	2.16
Glover's Reef General Use Zone (Expansion)	261.65	0.78
Bacalar Chico General Use Zone (Expansion)	179.99	0.54
Milestone 4 Protection Total	**1,669.64**	**5**
Milestone 1 Protection Total	6,690.46	20.05
Total Ocean Space Protected (to date)	**8,360.1**	**25.05**

BELIZE Social Investment Fund

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

Supply and delivery of 3 Motorcycles for Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI)

Country: Belize
Name of Project: Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP)
Contract Title: Supply and delivery of 3 motorcycles for Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI)
Loan No.: 9347 BE
RFB Reference No.: BZ-SIF-490526-GO-RFQ

1. *The Government of Belize has received* financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the *Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project* and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the procurement of goods for: *Supply and delivery of 3 motorcycles for SIRDI.*

2. The *Belize Social Investment Fund now* invites sealed Quotations from eligible Suppliers for *the procurement of goods for supply and delivery of 3 motorcycle for Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI).*

3. **List of Goods and Delivery Period**

Line Item N°	Description of Goods	Quantity required	Physical unit	Named Place of Destination (for CIP and EXW)	Place of Final Destination (Project Site)	Applicable Incoterms (e.g. CIP, EXW)	Delivery Period from Date of Contract Signature	Delivery Period from Date of Contract Signature (*proposed by the bidder*)
1	**Motorcycle XR150L**	**3**	**Yes**	**Belize Social Investment Fund, Building C 4253 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan City, Cayo District**	**SIRDI, Mile 66.5 Phillip Goldson Highway, Buena Vista Village, Corozal District**	CIP for imported goods or EXW for supply from within Belize plus inland transportation and other service as defined in "quoted Price (a) (iii).	**90 days**	

4. Bidding will be conducted through national competitive procurement using a Request for Quotations (RFQ) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" *2016* ("Procurement Regulations") and is open to all Suppliers as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

5. Suppliers interested in receiving the completed Request for Quotation (RFQ) may obtain further information from *Belize Social Investment Fund, Ms. Jahnina Reyes, at procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org.*

6. Quotations must be delivered to the address below on or before *3:00 p.m. on September 5th, 2025.* Late quotations will be rejected.

7. The address referred to above is:

Belize Social Investment Fund
Attn: Ms. Jahnina Reyes, Procurement Officer
P.O. Box 459, 4253 Hummingbird Highway, Building C, Belmopan City, Belize
Telephone: +501-822-0239
Email: procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org
cc : Jahnina.reyes@sifbelize.org

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES:

Notice is hereby given that **Shubin Yu** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Benny Restaurant"** located at # 2 ½ Mls. P.G. HWY., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jack Chiu** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Milky Way Cafe"** located at # 1643 Coney Drive, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Hay Tuen Tong** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Tong Hay Tuen Fast Food"** located at # 28A Baymen Avenue, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Meiling Luo** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Zhong Wang Shop"** located at # 15 Hopkins Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Huizhi Huang/Shaoqun Zhou** are applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"William Supermarket 2"** located at # 26 C.A. Blvd., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Wei Chao Huang** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Sea Shore Store"** located at # 3 P.G. HWY., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jiaxi Yu/Li Zhou** are applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Wong Gok Restaurant"** located at # 11 6th Street, King's Park Area, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Chun Ying Tan** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Tasty's Restaurant/Bar"** located at # 40 Mahogany Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

BCC Showcases more MSME Success

Continued from page 17

At the Belize City Council, each year, we work to make the back-to-school transition smoother for families while creating spaces where local businesses can thrive. None of this would be possible without YOU—our supportive residents and businesses!

As always, Mayor Bernard Wagner and the Belize City Council team will continue working to create more opportunities that drive growth, inspire progress, and bring our community together. (Post)

This was all smack during the Government and the Belize Tax Service's GST-Free on a larger list of items for school. Parents in the city got a double-benefits in discounts. MSMEs won and parents won and the City Council won…everybody did win this past weekend at the Back to School Supersale. Look out for the next one.

MoHW Confirms Human Cases of New World Screwworm in Belize

Continued from page 15

liomyia hominivorax) is a parasitic fly that lays its eggs in open wounds of humans and animals. The larvae hatch and feed on living tissue, causing severe pain, tissue damage, and in untreated cases, life-threatening infections. This infestation in humans is known as New World Screwworm myiasis. Because of its ability to spread rapidly and affect both animal and human health, New World Screwworm is considered a serious zoonotic public health and veterinary concern.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness, in partnership with BAHA and other stakeholders, will continue surveillance and public education to reduce the risk of further cases. (release)

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPER-

San Joaquin/ San Maximo Village, Corozal District; Carmelita Village, Orange Walk District; San Pedro, Belize Rural North II, Belize District.

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.

1. Parcel No. 296 San Joaquin Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Joaquin/San Maximo	1	296
The freehold property of Mr. Wilbert P. Linares		

2. Parcel No. 1447 Carmelita Village, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Carmelita	4	1447
The freehold property of Mr. Roamir Edwardo Gonzalez.		

3. Parcel No. 7092 Grand Belizean Estates, San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	7092
The freehold property of Mr. Edilberto Reyes Jr.		

4. Parcel No. 432 Near Mile 32 ¼, Philip Goldson Highway, Belize District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Belize Rural North II	11	432
The freehold property of Ms. Sulama Reyes		

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction

BDF- SouthCom - Human Rights Initiative Workshop

"testament to our unwavering commitment to integrate human rights as a fundamental pillar of our national security policy" – **Min. Oscar Mira, National Defence & Border Security**

The Ministry of National Defence and Border Security, in partnership with the U.S. Southern Command, is excited to announce the successful conclusion of an impactful Human Rights Initiative Workshop that took place at the Belize Biltmore Plaza on August 12-13, 2025. This pivotal event brought together a diverse group of participants, including members from the Belize Defence Force, Belize Coast Guard, Belize Police Department, Family Support and Gender Affairs Department of the Human Development Ministry, the Human Rights Commission of Belize, and the Louisiana Army National Guard, all united in the mission to underscore the essential role of human rights in military and security operations.

With over 30 participants in attendance, the workshop served as a vital platform for dialogue and education, fostering collaborative efforts aimed at deepening the understanding and application of human rights principles within the defence sector. The agenda covered crucial topics such as the military's protective role in safeguarding human rights, community engagement best practices, strategies for ensuring accountability and transparency, support for the Women Peace and Security Agenda, and a focus on Human Rights in Peacekeeping, particularly regarding the Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti.

Honorable Oscar Mira, Minister of National Defence and Border Security, underscored the workshop's importance, declaring, *"This initiative is a testament to our unwavering commitment to integrate human rights as a fundamental pillar of our national security policy. By investing in the training and education of our defence forces, we empower them to act with integrity and safeguard the rights of every citizen."*

Mr. Jose Rodriguez, the Human Rights Coordinator from the U.S. Southern Command, emphasized the significance of international collaboration in tackling human rights challenges, stating, *"Partnership and shared knowledge are crucial in fostering human rights within military operations. We are honored to support Belize in its relentless pursuit to uphold these principles."*

Participants actively engaged in dynamic sessions, discussions, and hands-on case studies, which provided real-world insights into implementing human rights practices across various operational settings. Feedback from attendees highlighted the workshop's profound impact on cultivating a culture of respect and accountability.

This initiative marks a significant advancement in reinforcing Belize's commitment to human rights within its security framework, ensuring that the nation's security forces are not only equipped but also empowered to effectively protect and serve its citizens with honor and respect. (post)

Request For Bids (RFB)

Institution: Belize Airports Authority
Country: BELIZE
IFB Title: Apron Works Placencia and Dangriga Airstrip
IFB Number: NCB01/2025

The Belize Airports Authority (BAA) hereby invites qualified contractors to submit bids for specific Apron construction works at the Placencia and Dangriga Airstrips, that will include excavation and site preparation of the apron areas and cement works.

Bids must be submitted in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders and Bidding Documents that can be obtained (free of cost) from the BAA's office located at the Sir Barry Bowen Municipal Airstrip in Belize City, between the hours of **09:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m. local time Belize – Monday to Friday,** or via email at vinaybhojwani@baabz.org and delvitcastillo@baabz.org, or downloaded from the website: MOF procurement website.

The BAA invites all interested contractors to a Prebid Meeting including site visit, that will be held as follows:

1. **September 8, 2025, 11:00 a.m. Placencia Airstrip**
2. **September 8, 2025, 2:00 p.m. at the Dangriga Airstrip**

Qualified contractors should submit three (3) hardcopies of their Bids and all required documentation to the following address:

Belize Airports Authority
Sir Barry Bowen Municipal Airport
Belize City
(Ref: Apron Works – Placencia/Dangriga)

Deadline for the submissions of bids is 1**0:00 a.m. local time Belize on September 15th, 2025.**
Late bids will not be accepted.

Request For Proposals (RFP)

Institution: Belize Airports Authority
Country: BELIZE
IFB Title: Security Services
IFB Number: NCB02/2025

The Belize Airports Authority (BAA) hereby invites qualified contractors to submit proposals for aviation security screening services at the following airstrips:

a. **John Grief II – San Pedro**
b. **Sir Barry Bowen Municipal Airport – Belize City**
c. **Punta Gorda Airstrip**
d. **Placencia Airstrip**
e. **Ranchito Airstrip – Corozal**
f. **Pelican Beach Airstrip – Dangriga**
g. **Caye Caulker Municipal**

Proposals must be submitted in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders and Proposal Documents that can be obtained (free of cost) from the BAA's office located at the Sir Barry Bowen Municipal Airstrip in Belize City, between the hours of **09:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m. local time Belize – Monday to Friday,** or via email at vinaybhojwani@baabz.org and delvitcastillo@baabz.org, or downloaded from the website: MOF procurement website.

The BAA invites all interested companies to a mandatory Pre-proposal Meeting including site visits, that will be held from **September 15th to September 19th, 2025.**

Qualified contractors should submit three (3) hardcopies of their proposals and all required documentation to the following address:

Belize Airports Authority
Sir Barry Bowen Municipal Airport
Belize City
(Ref: Apron Works – Placencia/Dangriga)

Deadline for the submissions of bids is **10:00 a.m. local time Belize on October 3rd , 2025.**
Late proposals will not be accepted.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

SERVICES

Cleaning and Maintenance Services - Belize Tax Service Offices

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Belize Tax Service Department (BTSD)
Country: BELIZE
Deadline: September 5th, 2025 at 4:30 pm Local Belize time

The Belize Tax Service Department is seeking expressions of interest from eligible companies for the cleaning and maintenance services at Belize City headquarters. Sanitization and cleaning of the office is essential to provide a safe and healthy environment for the BTSD personnel and the public.

Period: For a period of two (2) year (November 1, 2025 – October 31, 2027)

To maintain a clean and healthy working environment at the BTSD at Eleanor Hall Building and compound on Lake I Boulevard in Belize City, Belize.

The main responsibility of company includes but are not limited to the following:

(a) Cleaning of office spaces, cafeteria, kitchenettes, office furniture, equipment and conference facilities along with respective fixtures.
(b) Cleaning of all bathrooms and their fixtures.
(c) Cleaning of the stairways, corridors and foyer area, railings and doors.
(d) Cleaning of all internal glass walls and windows.
(e) Garbage disposal.
(f) Cleaning supplies – Belize Tax Service will be responsible for wash cloth, hand towels, toilet paper, dishwashing liquid, hand soap & disinfectant.

- Your Company will provide all necessary tools, cleaning materials, additional cleaning supplies such as bleach etc, equipment/machinery, labour, transportation for the performance of the service.

Qualification of the Company:

(a) Have a minimum of three (3) years working experience in Government offices.
(b) Cleaning and maintenance or similar type work experience of at least five (5) years is required.
(c) Experience working in the public and private sector in similar assignment.

Skills, Abilities and Knowledge:

- Excellent written and communication skills in English and Spanish.
- The ability to solve problems in a timely fashion.
- Organizing a work team with hands-on experience.
- Good public relations, organizational, coordination and networking skills required.
- Honesty, integrity, and respect.
- Demonstrate daily monitoring of on-site workers.

Expression of Interest package should contain:

(i) Cover letter briefly explaining interest, experience, and competence of the Company.
(ii) Description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments. *Please provide dates, name of employing organization, types of activities performed and location of the assignment.*
(iii) List of at least two references
(iv) Proof of nationality: copy of documentation of nationality

Additional documentation required for National Consultants:

(i) Copy of Certificate of Good Standing from Belize Company Registry
(ii) Copy of Certificate of Good Standing from the Social Security Board
(iii) Copy of Certificate of Good Standing from the Belize Tax Service
(iv) Copy of Current Trade License

Interested Contractors may obtain further information at the address below during the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Local Belize Time, Monday to Thursday and 8:00 am -4:30 pm on Friday.

Qualified Contractors must submit their expression of interest via e-mail to **Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz** no later than September 5th, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. Local Belize Time **Cleaning and Maintenance Services** in the subject header; or applicants may also submit a hardcopy at the following address (late bids will not be accepted):

Director General
Belize Tax Service Department
Eleanor Hall Building
Lake I. Boulevard, Belize City

Ministry of the Public Service, Constitutional and Political Reform and Religious Affairs
Government of Belize

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

COMMONWEALTH MASTER SCHOLARSHIPS TENABLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM – 2026/2027

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK (CSC) provides the UK government's Commonwealth scholarship scheme led by international development objectives. Since 1960, the CSC has funded over 30,000 individuals to study in the UK and gain skills, acquire knowledge and build networks to tackle global development challenges.

Nominations are invited from suitable qualified candidates from Belize wishing to pursue master's degree programmes in the United Kingdom commencing in September 2026. The award is being offered in either of the following six (6) categories:

1. Science and technology for development
2. Improving population health, health systems and capacity
3. Promoting innovation and entrepreneurship
4. Strengthening peace, security and governance
5. Strengthening resilience and response to crises
6. Access, inclusion and opportunity

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY:

- Candidates must be Citizens of Belize or have refugee status in Belize.
- Candidates must be a permanent resident of Belize.
- Candidates should hold or expect to hold, by September 2026, a first degree of upper second-class honours level or a second-class degree and a relevant post-graduate qualification.
- Candidate must be unable to afford to study in the UK without this scholarship.
- Candidate must provide all supporting documentation in the required format.
- Candidates should be able to take up their awards by the start of the UK academic year in September 2026.

Awards are tenable at any UK institution of higher education which has part funding agreement with the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC). For a *list of universities that have agreed to part-fund Commonwealth Scholarships,* visit:http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/apply/uk-universities/part-funding/.

Candidates are strongly encouraged to submit independent applications to their chosen institutions in the UK prior to, or at the time of their submission, without waiting for the results of the selection procedures.

HOW TO APPLY

All nominated candidates **must** apply using the CSC's Online Application System. Information on how to use the online application system is available at:
https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/scholarships/commonwealth-masters-scholarships/.

OPENING AND CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION

The CSC's Online Application System will open on Tuesday, 2nd September 2025 Greenwich Meridian Time (GMT). All completed applications must be submitted online prior to deadline of 14th October 2025 at 4:00 p.m. All supporting documentation must be uploaded with the application.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Academic merit of the candidate.
- Quality of the candidate plan of study.
- Potential impact of the work on the development of the candidate's home country.
- Level of community involvement (national requirement)

Applicants can access this link for further guidance: https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/advicetoapplicants

SELECTION PROCESS

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) will submit the list of eligible candidates to the Nominating Agency (Ministry of the Public Service, Constitutional and Political Reform and Religious Affairs).

The Nominating Agency through its National Selection Panel will conduct an interview with each eligible candidate. The top two (2) candidates will be Belize Nominations for onward submission to CSC by 9th December 2025.

The final selection period at the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) level is from January – June 2026. Kindly note: Do not contact this Ministry for results; the **CSC will directly contact successful candidate,**

CONTACT US:

Visit our website at https://www.publicservice.gov.bz

Follow us on The Ministry of the Public Service, Governance and Disaster Risk Management and the Training and Development Unit Facebook pages.

Ministry of the Public Service, Governance and Disaster Risk Management, Training and Development Unit at Sir Edney Cane's Building in Belmopan or call 501-822-2204 or Email: ceo.secretary@mps.gov.bz; cordelia.belezaire@mps.gov.bz or training.assistant@mps.gov.bz

Please note that all applicants are recruited in line with the CSC's anti-fraud policy and procedure which can be viewed at CSC anti-fraud policy and procedure - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

LETTER TO THE Editor

Insulting a Public Officer

Dear Editor:

A Facebook post for one Michael Peyrefitte launched an attack at customs officers. This is so similar to the "retarded" video of a guy claiming to be mistreated by customs officers so he goes on to be a/n ....I know you won't print the word(s) I want to use.

If this Michael Peyrefitte is the former attorney general who often expertly lied and misinformed to the public, then quite a shame. We know he has no shame, what I mean is that you Peyrefitte would be putting your country to shame.

According to what seems to be this two-time former & unelectable UDP chair man's personal page and public rant, a public officer for the customs department was doing his job to check the Peyrefitte luggage as is the customs regulations. I guess there is discretion but that is up to the customs officer and NOT the traveller...and definitely not Peyrefitte who most likely has had his 13plus years share of waivers.

Peyre...get used to it...you and your UDP are not in charge. You and your UDP are not in charge of anything not even of a party... its dead. Who is the retarded one now? And last.....isn't there a charge when you disrespect Public Officers publicly?

Raw truth,

UDP Watch

Belize National Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let Your light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives.

With Your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the

observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and, in that peace which the world itself cannot give.

And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You.

Amen.

VACANCY NOTICE

LAGISLATURE – NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

POSITION: DEPUTY CLRK

Application are invited from suitable qualified persons to fill (1) position of **Deputy Clerk** for the Legislature at the National Assembly.

The National Assembly is the Legislature or Parliament of Belize. It consists of two Houses, that is, the Senate (Upper House) and the House of Representatives (Lower House). The thirty-one (31) Members of the House of Representatives are elected in a general election under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act. Meanwhile, the thirteen (13) Members of the Senate are nominated and appointed by the Governor General of Belize, in accordance with the Constitution of Belize.
The National Assembly Staff (Conditions of Service) Regulations, 2003, define how staff of the National Assembly are governed.

Basic Purpose of Position:

Overview of the Position
The Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly of Belize (the Parliament) is a senior administrative and procedural officer of the parliament, supporting the Clerk of Parliament in managing the operations of the legislature. The role of the Deputy Clerk is essential in ensuring efficient conduct of parliamentary procedures, effective administration of parliamentary matters and to provide for continued operational management in the absence of the Clerk of the National Assembly.

1. **Essential Duties and Responsibilities**

1. **Procedural Support**
   - Assists the Clerk in advising the Presiding Officers, Members of Parliament (MPs), and parliamentary committees on rules, procedures, and constitutional matters
   - Supports the preparation and review of parliamentary agendas, order papers, reports and minutes of proceedings.
   - Assists the Clerk in ensuring all MPs receive the Order Papers and all relevant documents required for House and Senate meetings
   - Assists the Clerk in ensuring that notices and communiques are issued before every sitting of the House of Representatives, Senate and Parliamentary Committee Meetings
   - Ensures compliance with parliamentary rules, standing orders, and constitutional provisions
   - Ensures the proper records management and maintenance of official parliamentary debates (Hansard) and other legislative documents
   - Deputizes for the Clerk when needed on all procedural and legislative support to members of parliament

2. **Administrative and Management Responsibilities**
   - Assists the Clerk with the the day-to-day administration of the Parliament and its staff
   - Supervises parliamentary staff, ensuring efficiency and professionalism
   - Works with the Clerk on recommendations for the development of processes and administration of the National Assembly and its staff
   - Coordinates parliamentary budgets, financial management, and resource allocation for the Legislature and
   - Assists the Clerk with the development of annual budget estimates

3. **Coordination and Public Engagement**
   - Acts as the primary liaison officer between Parliament and the executive, judiciary, and other stakeholders
   - Facilitates communication between the House and the Senate, parliament and the public, including media relation
   - Oversees the visits, outreach programs, and educational initiatives to promote public understanding of the parliament's work.
   - Works with the Clerk on Branch Secretary duties for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and its networks, FOPREL, Inter-Parliamentary Union, ParlAmericas and any other parliamentary networks where applicable and identified by the Clerk
   - Serves as Secretary to the National Assembly Staff Committee

4. **Support to Parliamentary Committees**
   - Works with the Clerk to Committees and provides administrative and procedural support to parliamentary committees
   - Ensures proper documentation of committee meetings, reports, and recommendations
   - Advises committee chairs and members on best practices for conducting inquiries and debates

2. **The Candidate should possess the following qualifications and skills:**

Skills and Experience Required:

- Strong knowledge of constitutional law, parliamentary procedures, and governance would be an asset
- Good organizational, leadership, and communication skills
- Experience in legal, administrative, or legislative affairs
- Ability to work in a politically neutral and professional manner
- Strong research and analytical skills
- Minimum of 5 years in Supervisory or Management Level
- Fluency and competency in the English Language. Working knowledge of the Spanish language would be an asset

Reporting/Supervisory Responsibility:

- Accountable to the Clerk, Presiding Officers and the National Assembly Staff Committee
- Liaises regularly with the Cabinet Secretary for meetings of the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- Annual Performance Appraisal is conducted by the Clerk of the National Assembly

Special Work Conditions (where applicable):

The Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly works in a unique and highly demanding environment that requires flexibility, confidentiality and political neutrality. The Deputy Clerk often works beyond regular office hours especially during parliamentary sessions, debates and committee meetings. The Deputy Clerk may be required to work weekends, holidays, late nights or early mornings depending on parliamentary schedules. The Deputy Clerk must handle confidential government and legislative information with discretion and is expected to remain impartial and professional despite political tensions and disagreements.

Academic Qualification:

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Public Administration Management or Organizational Management
- Parliamentary Procedures Training at the Certificate Level would be an asset

3. **Salary:**

Equivalent to Government's Payscale 24 of $42,000 x 1,644 - $73,236 per annum.

Deadline for applications

Interested persons who are in possession of the required qualification and experience and have the aptitude for the post of this nature are requested to submit a complete application package which must include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, copies of relevant qualifications, a copy of a recent Police record to **The Clerk, National Assembly, Price Centre Road, Belmopan**, no later than **5th September, 2025.**

LETTER TO THE Editor

Where is the Independent Media?

Dear editor,

I fully understand the role of an independent media group in the open functioning of a modern society. I am sure that they should be an objective entity with mostly unbiased reporting. Humans probably cannot be 100 percent objective, understood. Yet, there are journalistic guidelines to follow to be at the middle to earn an independent journalist tag.

I have noticed that I NEVER see some advertisers here at the Belize Times. I respect that they don't want to be associated with our political party but if you advertise with anti-government media then know that you do not deserve the PUP consumer dollars.

The Belize Times is PUP and today it is informing the world of what the grand PUP is doing...and we have a LOT—lots of success, as the PUP leads in building the nation for everyone.

Example of the week: It was easy to notice, as is their habit to ignore the good, that 7 on Monday had no news story on the Mexico visit by the Prime Minister and what I hear is being called a BIG word ...Trilateral meeting. Seven hates success for Belize. Even I can notice that this meeting which included Guatemala was BIG BIG. It's big for our children so we shouldn't play politics with it. 7 showed their not-so-Secret UDP DNA. Again, advertisers that still use them exclusively should be considered UDP and thus be boycotted by PUPs. That is the reality...or advertise with everyone to remain neutral to the consumers.

All media houses should highlight Belize...not the murders only.

Media houses that openly "err" should be fined immediately along with an apology. Maybe ONE bly. There is lots of examples of loved ones hearing wrong information being spewed for the sake of "Breaking" it first.

Almost all of the so called independent media in Belize is waiting to attack the government of the people... HUGE WINS at the national elections are not respected. Repeat offenders should have their license revoked. I can understand a section of your news being an editorial or someone's opinion BUT not all the news. People like sensational but use the truth.

Guys, one word in your report can make your report biased… that is disrespect to the people who listen for information. They do not watch to be indoctrinated with an opinion.

Many that tune into "independent" media do not want no Belizean Fox nor Belizean MSNBC. They want and deserve to hear facts from our media.

That's why I love my Belize Times which is proPUP and proud of it; no hiding just the truth about the successes of planBelize 2.0.

Honestly,

Belizean PUP Reader

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE, INVESTMENT, ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION, CIVIL AVIATION & E-GOVERNANCE

PROJECT: RESILIENT RURAL BELIZE PROGRAMME

ROAD INFRASTRUCTIRE – SANTA CRUZ ROAD (5.2 KM)

Reference Number: RRB.W.17

INVITATION TO BID – WORKS

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in an amount equivalent to US$5 Million towards the cost of the Resilient Rural Belize Programme and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds to eligible payments under this contract. Payment by CDB will be made only at the request of GOB and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement. The Loan Agreement prohibits a withdrawal from the Loan Account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party, other than GOB, shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Loan.

The Resilient Rural Belize Programme (RRB) is the Executing Agency for the Project, and the Ministry of Finance, Investment, **Economic Transformation**, Civil Aviation & E-Governance, is responsible for the overall implementation of the project. The RRB invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Road Infrastructure – Santa Cruz Road (5.2 km)**. The works include, but may not be limited to the following:

The upgrading of the Santa Cruz Road and the San Jose Village Road, Toledo District. On completion, the project shall upgrade 5.2 km of roadway to traversable standard and will include the following:

- Clearing of Road Reserve
- Undercutting of soft material and dispose
- Excavate or clean side drains
- Minor waterway training and cleaning
- Supply and install concrete Culvert Units as per Drawings
- Construct Wingwalls, Aprons and Headwalls
- Supply and backfill culvert units with suitable material
- Supply, transport, place and compact fill materials
- Supply, transport, place and compact surface dressing materials (double chip seal surface layer)
- Road signage and markings
- Repair steel bridge girders
- Construct new reinforced concrete bridges

The bidding process is conducted according to the procedures specified in the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January, 2021), as published on CDB's website and is open to all bidders from eligible countries.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB. Bidders are advised to review the relevant eligibility criteria detailed in Section 4 and conflict of interest provisions in Section 5 of the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January, 2021), as published on CDB's website.

Firms whether applying individually or in the form of a Joint Venture, shall:

(a) be legally incorporated or otherwise organised in, and have their principal place of business in an Eligible Country;

(b) be more than fifty (50) percent beneficially-owned by a citizen or citizens and/or a bona fide resident or residents of an Eligible Country, or by a body corporate or bodies meeting these requirements, as far as the ownership can be reasonably determined; and

(c) shall have no arrangement and undertake not to make any arrangement whereby the majority of the financial benefits of the contract, i.e. more than fifty (50) percent of the value of the contract, will accrue or be paid to sub-contractors or sub-consultants that are not from an Eligible Country.

Eligible bidders will be required to submit full qualification information with their bids establishing their eligibility to bid and qualification to perform the contract if the bid is accepted.

Qualification requirements include, inter alia:

(a) an average annual turnover (defined as certified payments received for works in progress or completed) within the last 5 years of Belize Dollars Seven Million (BZD 7,000,000);

(b) a demonstrable cash flow (including access to credit) of Belize Dollars Four Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand (BZD 456,000); and

(c) experience as prime contractor in the construction of at least one (1) assignment of a nature, scope and complexity comparable to the proposed project activity within the last five (5) years (to comply with this requirement, works quoted should be at least eighty (80) percent complete).

Bidding and qualification information are to be submitted in the English Language on the prescribed forms inserted in the Bid Documents. Submissions that do not provide the information required or that do not demonstrate the prospective supplier's ability to perform satisfactorily, will not qualify and will not be considered for further evaluation.

Requests for bidding documents may be made in writing to the first address below. Written applications must be clearly marked: "Request for Bid Documents for Road Infrastructure – Santa Cruz Road (5.2 km)".

The electronic Bidding submission procedures are as follows: Electronic Bids shall be submitted by email, as a password protected single attachment, in pdf format, by the deadline and to the second email address stated below. The password shall be submitted in a separate email, five (5) to ten (10) minutes after the bid submission deadline and before the public opening of bids.

Hard copies of Bids must be submitted as follows: one (1) original and two (2) copies in one envelope sealed and marked as indicated in the bidding document, with the name and address of the bidder, and be clearly marked "Bid for Road Infrastructure – Santa Cruz Road (5.2 km) and in addition, one copy of the bid shall be an electronic copy saved on a flash drive also included in the sealed envelope, to the third address below. Electronic or physical bids must be delivered no later than **October 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. (local time)**. Bids will be opened, publicly, immediately after the deadline for submission of bids, in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the second address below. Qualification information only must be submitted, simultaneously, to the third address below.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration. Late bids will be rejected.

GOB/Ministry of Economic Transformation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected prospective bidder(s) of the grounds for GOB/Ministry of Economic Transformation action. GOB will not defray any costs incurred by any bidder in the preparation of bids.

(1) Address and information for Requesting Bidding Documents and Requesting Clarifications:	(2) Address and information for electronic Bid Submission and Bid Opening:	(3) Address and information for Physical Bid Submission and Bid Opening Venue: Resilient Rural Belize Programme
Attention: Lemuel Palacio, Senior Procurement Officer Street Address: Hummingbird Highway, National Agriculture Showgrounds City: City of Belmopan, Cayo District Country: Belize, C.A. Electronic mail address: lpalacio.rrb@met.gov.bz Copied to: Nadia Vernon, nvernon.rrb@met.gov.bz	Electronic mail address: procurement.rrb@met.gov.bz	Attention: Lemuel Palacio, Senior Procurement Officer Street Address: Hummingbird Highway, National Agriculture Showgrounds City: City of Belmopan, Cayo District Country: Belize, C.A.

LETTER TO THE Editor

Farce: The Public is Demanding; Internet Erupted. Truth: The Public Elected the PUP TWICE in 2025

Dear Editor:

Coincidentally, when the school bag non-issue was manufactured by the usual news manufacturer and then followed by the car dude...I remembered the cheap phone deals by Anwar's BTL some ten years ago...approximately, in UDP years. Not sure why my brain associates both but the Secret players do know. And it is shameless.

School bags and the accessories that come along are a staple in education. It is so true that the donation of a schoolbag does not in itself rid a parent of school expenses but it does open the eyes of everyone that every dollar put into education is welcomed. The time spent with "fake" or not….is wasted. And NO the Internet did not erupt…it was only a few people who bothered. These people were definitely not humble Belizeans. There was no public outcry. Like this opinion is only mine…1 person responding to a few UDP trolls.

I would say that anyone bringing attention to themselves via any unrequested announcement is getting free undeserved advertisement. So shutup and just give your donation Mr. businessman. I know many businessmen that give and give without the need for an advertisement dollar Plus. If the police officer was giving…then help him and done.

To AnR, kudos for the reaction in quelling the morning and afternoon bull. They helped you and more children. But they helped themselves with free advertisement.

Lastly, it is a lie when a "media" station says there is "public outcry" or when they say the internet was upset. Even if it's a thousand comments (an exaggeration), that still does not allow you to say "the public". Stop manufacturing and embellishing to get more views…it hurts the nation and does not help your dossier.

When will you say, "massively, the people have elected the PUP to rule for five years." From day one, the UDP-leaning media and few leftover UDPs have not only opposed but also accused the government of several wrongdoings without any logic nor evidence. Oh, and then three months later the villages seconded the motion.

Vile UDPs, message to you, the people will never return to that bitterness-led type of character nor will they be fooled. So, stop trying. First find people to form a party, 2035 is a good target year. Stop trying to find a leader of a Party that does not exist—putting the cart before the mule.

Give towards education from your heart. That is the spot where the kids receive as well—their innocent hearts.

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE, INVESTMENT, ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION, CIVIL AVIATION & E-GOVERNANCE

PROJECT: RESILIENT RURAL BELIZE PROGRAMME

ROAD INFRASTRUCTIRE – SAN JOSE FARM ROAD (3.5KM)
Reference Number: RRB.W.16

INVITATION TO BID – WORKS

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in an amount equivalent to US$5 Million towards the cost of the Resilient Rural Belize Programme and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds to eligible payments under this contract. Payment by CDB will be made only at the request of GOB and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement. The Loan Agreement prohibits a withdrawal from the Loan Account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party, other than GOB, shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Loan.

The Resilient Rural Belize Programme (RRB) is the Executing Agency for the Project, and the Ministry of Finance, Investment, **Economic Transformation**, Civil Aviation & E-Governance, is responsible for the overall implementation of the project. The RRB invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Road Infrastructure – San Jose Farm Road (3.5 km), Toledo District.** The works include, but may not be limited to the following:

The upgrading of the San Jose Farm Road, Toledo District. On completion, the project shall upgrade 3.5 km of roadway to traversable standard and will include the following:

- Clearing of Road Reserve
- Undercutting of soft material and dispose
- Excavate or clean side drains
- Installation of grouted rip rap for embankment protection
- Supply and install concrete Ford Crossings as per Drawings
- Supply, transport, place and compact fill materials

The bidding process is conducted according to the procedures specified in the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January, 2021), as published on CDB's website and is open to all bidders from eligible countries.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB. Bidders are advised to review the relevant eligibility criteria detailed in Section 4 and conflict of interest provisions in Section 5 of the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January, 2021), as published on CDB's website.

Firms whether applying individually or in the form of a Joint Venture, shall:

(a) be legally incorporated or otherwise organised in, and have their principal place of business in an Eligible Country;

(b) be more than fifty (50) percent beneficially-owned by a citizen or citizens and/or a bona fide resident or residents of an Eligible Country, or by a body corporate or bodies meeting these requirements, as far as the ownership can be reasonably determined; and

(c) shall have no arrangement and undertake not to make any arrangement whereby the majority of the financial benefits of the contract, i.e. more than fifty (50) percent of the value of the contract, will accrue or be paid to sub-contractors or sub-consultants that are not from an Eligible Country.

Eligible bidders will be required to submit full qualification information with their bids establishing their eligibility to bid and qualification to perform the contract if the bid is accepted.

Qualification requirements include, inter alia:

(a) an average annual turnover (defined as certified payments received for works in progress or completed) within the last 5 years of at least Belize Dollars Five Million (BZD 5,000,000);

(b) a demonstrable cash flow (including access to credit) of Belize Dollars Three Hundred Seventy Thousand (BZD 370,000); and

(c) experience as prime contractor in the construction of at least one (1) assignment of a nature, scope and complexity comparable to the proposed project activity within the last five (5) years (to comply with this requirement, works quoted should be at least 80 percent complete).

Bidding and qualification information are to be submitted in the English Language on the prescribed forms inserted in the Bid Documents. Submissions that do not provide the information required or that do not demonstrate the prospective supplier's ability to perform satisfactorily, will not qualify and will not be considered for further evaluation.

Requests for bidding documents may be made, in writing, to the first address below. Written applications must be clearly marked: "Request for Bid Documents for Road Infrastructure – San Jose Farm Road (3.5 km)".

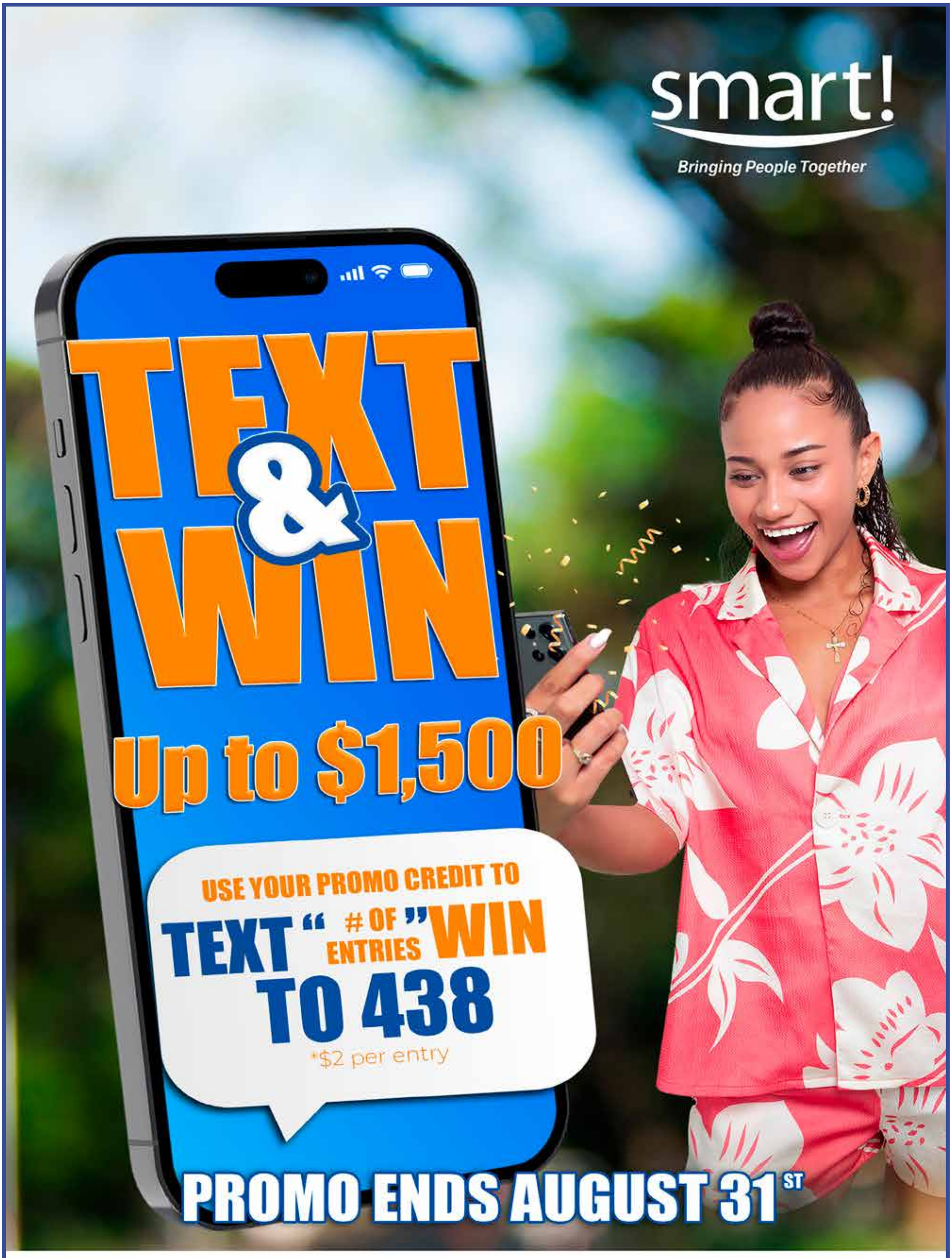
The electronic Bidding submission procedures are as follows: Electronic Bids shall be submitted by email, as a password protected single attachment, in pdf format, by the deadline and to the second email address stated below. The password shall be submitted in a separate email, five (5) to ten (10) minutes after the bid submission deadline and before the public opening of bids.

Hard copies of Bids must be submitted as follows: one (1) original and two (2) copies in one envelope sealed and marked as indicated in the bidding document, with the name and address of the bidder, and be clearly marked "Bid for Road Infrastructure – San Jose Farm Road (3.5 km)" and in addition, one copy of the bid shall be an electronic copy saved on a flash drive also included in the sealed envelope, to the third address below. Electronic or physical bids must be delivered no later than **October 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. (local time).** Bids will be opened, publicly, immediately after the deadline for submission of bids, in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the third address below.

Each bid must be accompanied Bid-Securing Declaration. Late bids will be rejected.

GOB/Ministry of Economic Transformation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected prospective bidder(s) of the grounds for GOB/Ministry of Economic Transformation action. GOB will not defray any costs incurred by any bidder in the preparation of bids.

(1) Address and information for Requesting Bidding Documents and Requesting Clarifications:	(2) Address and information for electronic Bid Submission and Bid Opening:	(3) Address and information for Physical Bid Submission and Bid Opening
Attention: Lemuel Palacio, Senior Procurement Officer Street Address: Hummingbird Highway, National Agriculture Showgrounds City: City of Belmopan, Cayo District Country: Belize, C.A. Electronic mail address: lpalacio.rrb@met.gov.bz Copied to: Nadia Vernon, nvernon.rrb@met.gov.bz	Electronic mail address: procurement.rrb@met.gov.bz	Venue: Resilient Rural Belize Programme Attention: Lemuel Palacio, Senior Procurement Officer Street Address: Hummingbird Highway, National Agriculture Showgrounds City: City of Belmopan, Cayo District Country: Belize, C.A.



FOR MORE INFO: 1090 OR 670-1096 | WWW.SMART-BZ.COM